



# Sõrve Sosin

5.1.20

## Sõrve Sõnad

Laager *Camp*

Juht *Leader*

Juhid *Leaders*

Elanik *Resident*

Vanemad *Parents*

Tare *Hut*

Söögisaal *Foodhall*

Bassein *Pool*

Grupp *Group*

Sõbrad *Friends*

Eesti *Estonia*

Lipp *Flag*



Sõrve in Saaremaa, Eesti... see the similarities... this camp was named after this very spot

### Welcome from the Camp Leader

WELCOME to Sõrve 2020!! I can't believe it's been another year since we last met! I can't even begin to explain how excited I have been to have this week finally start. This year promises culture, drama, sports, magic and reconnecting with our Estonian roots.

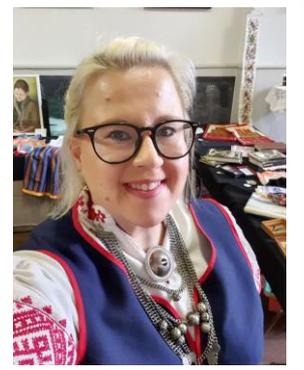
Planning Sõrve is much like planning a stage production, but for one week. I have to ensure everything is in the right place at the exact right time, and getting really excited about it, without sharing all of the Sõrve secrets beforehand. This is the hardest part...keeping the secrets.

This year my team and I have spent a lot of hours planning, chatting, organising, figuring out logistics for it to all come together for this one very magical week, for the year. We are so excited to share with you what we have planned, keeping the magic of Sõrve and children, at the front of our minds.

We are so excited for you to enjoy old favourites and some new ventures we have undertaken, for Sõrve 2020.

Sharing the magic of Sõrve year after year is what we, as a team, look forward to the most, and hope you all get to enjoy the magic like we did as children. Enough about us planning the camp! Now, let's enjoy Sõrve 2020 and have the best week of the year!

**Marissa Apsey**, Camp Leader, 2020



### A Message from the Honorary Consul

I was very pleased to be asked to write a few words of welcome to the Sõrve 2020 camp. So - 'tere tulemast'! I trust you were able to get to 'Sõrve' despite all the bushfires, smoke, road closures, fuel shortages and power blackouts.

We certainly live in a time of changing climate, but what has not changed however, is the energy and hard work that the Sõrve Sõbrad has invested to ensure that this 'Sõrve' camp will again be a success. The Estonian children's camps in Australia have been held for almost 70 years (first ones held in the 1950's), and certainly at Point Wolstoncroft on beautiful Lake Macquarie since the early 1960's. This makes 'Sõrve' one of the longest continuously running Estonian children's camps outside of Estonia, alongside it's peers in USA, Canada, United Kingdom and Sweden.

'Sõrve' only exists because of the hard work and resourcefulness of our many volunteer camp leaders and supporting parents, who give up their free time to create a wonderful 'Estonian experience' for our children and grandchildren. The friendships won and wonderful memories gained at camp will usually last a lifetime. Estonia recognises the outstanding dedication and resourcefulness of expatriate Estonians across the world to maintain these camps for multiple generations of descendants, typically with little direct financial government support.

It is great to hear that this year there has been an increase in registrations, allowing Sõrve to book the entire camp. I understand there are attendees from Adelaide, North Queensland, Los Angeles and New Zealand, and that there are over 20 'C- Group' registrations. These are the future generations of Sõrve, and will help ensure that the Estonian community in Australia will continue to flourish.

I offer my congratulations to the hardworking 'team behind this year's camp, and it is my pleasant task and honour on behalf of the Estonian Government and people to wish everyone a successful 'Sõrve' 2020!



**Sulev Kalamäe** Honorary Consul for Estonia, Sydney



### A Message from El Presidente.

Greetings and welcome to the citizens of Sõrve. Now is that happy time when Point Wolstoncroft is renamed to Mar El Laager and the people gather to celebrate our heritage. After consultation with the Juhid Junta, El Presidente has decided to relax certain laws that are normally in place for your/his protection:

**Food Rationing** is to be suspended within the area of the Söögisaal. In fact, teenagers who do not line up for seconds are to be force-fed by their tare mates.

**Freedom of the Press** is forcibly restored. Contribution of subversive articles to the Sosin is now compulsory. Adults must routinely contribute stories and images to the Minister for Propaganda Aime Liiband and Chief Censor Andrew Kass by the cut-off time of ??am using Dropbox or Facebook.

My **Cult of Personality** is taking a brief step back. The requirement for all social media posts to include a picture of El Presidente smiling benevolently is removed. However, to control my paranoia and ensure child protection, all posted images of campers are to be of groups.

There will be a **Cultural Revolution**. Songs, dance, music and craft are all permitted to be performed and enjoyed – even if they fail to include lyrics, images and other content praising El Presidente.

Make the most of my brief flirtation with democracy. There will be consequences President Vana Toomas





Sörve adults... let's raise some much needed funds for our hardworking firies! Raffle tickets will be on sale during camp for a hamper of goodies. ALL money will be donated to the RFS. Please see Matt or Katrin Porm to purchase a ticket. Also, if you'd like to contribute something to the hamper, drop it to Matt Porm on the C Group veranda



**From Elanik to Juht to Father... A perspective from Kristjan Porm**

It's mid-December in the 1980s and I've been travelling in Memme's car north of Sydney for around an hour. One tree lined stretch of highway after another until a familiar piece of road tells me to look for a sign on the left. The sign is hand made with slightly crooked letters and wouldn't mean much to most passers by but this signals the excitement in the car. A few minutes later we drive slowly past the lilly pond and though the gates of Sörve as all memories come flooding back from many years of fun, activity and friendship.

My years as an elanik at Sörve are some of the best memories I will ever have and impossible to capture in in one place. Cicadas in the tall gum trees, the old tyre bell, Vanaemas being let into breakfast first by the komandant, Maasepp's old portable sauna, watermelon on the hikes, canoeing, the opera house made of corrugated iron, floating fish, lõkke, getting in trouble with Matti Kase and Indrek Tuults, swimming in the old swimming pool full of seaweed, Jouluvana, fruit patrol, playing kes ajas with older kids, käsitoo, walking to the point, feeling sad driving back past the lilly pond when it all ended.

Life-long friends sharing wonderful experiences steeped in the Eesti culture under the Australian sun year on year out.

Then it came time to help create all of this for other lapsed – ones who I had watched grow up in C & B groups of the years who's parents I knew well. It was a natural progression and those older juhid who had provided years of great experiences were around to help the process. I wanted to create the same safe and fun environment for all those kids that I had experienced. Ülevatus started to be fun!

But then came the night of the initiation – kissing the Blarney Stone. We drew straws... I didn't get the shortest one!

I remember thinking it was much more fun being an elanik with no responsibility and lots of time – I was really busy and realised how much went into running the camp. I had a new appreciation for all juhid and the camp leaders. I was learning and growing and helping the younger ones have a great time!

Years passed. I travelled, grew older, married and had kids of my own – but Sörve stayed clearly in my memory. I blinked and it was mid 2014 I was back in the pool with my 3 year old and my brother Simon's kids holding him as he swam in floaties amidst a pool full of screaming children, balls flying everywhere. I looked around and realised I knew mostly everyone in some way.

Sörve had changed in many ways – different activities, better food, newer buildings, younger leaders.

The Sörve spirit is talked about often – the essence that everyone would like to bottle and take home. In my experience this is ever present and permeates all generations. I feel like I can smell it and touch it when I am there and it's something I want my kids to experience in their lives.

These days, when I visit, I am driving back past the lilly pond with a smile on my face and two exhausted boys, asleep in the back seat.



Sörve at Pt Wolstoncroft

**A short note from the Editor**

Teretulemast! I am very pleased to have been asked to edit the 2020 Sosin, having started the tradition over twenty five years ago. I encourage all residents to contribute to the newsletter in any way.... articles, riddles, poems, stories, photos are all very welcome. Deadline for Sosin content is 6pm each day. Contributions can be given to any Juht at any time. Huts can also do combined articles! The Juhid have already put a lot of work into this and you will see their contributions over the coming week. There will be a prize for the best contribution.

Editor

